Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

April 18, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level

- to increase vocabulary among learners

- to increase knowledge of news stories

- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource

Alberta Government

CBC

News story #1 Mass Murder in Calgary

How often does the news in your home country have stories about violence and murder? This first news story is about how 5 young university students were killed at a party by another student.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
1. mass murder	to kill many people at one time
2. stab	to break someone's skin with a sharp object, usually with a knife
3. victim	someone who has been attacked, robbed or murdered (killed)
4. shocked	to be surprised, usually in a negative way. People can't believe what happened if they are shocked.
5. entire	the whole thing or all of something
6. arrested	when the police charge someone with a crime and take that person to jail
7. suspect	the person who is thought to have done something wrong
8. appearance	coming, arriving or showing up somewhere

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

first-degree murder: when someone has pre-planned to kill someone else. The murder was not an accident; it was on purpose.

1. Everyone was _____ to hear about the mass murder in Calgary.
2. The _____ group of people who were at the party in Calgary is very upset about what happened there.
3. Unfortunately, there were _____ who got killed at the party.
4. The attacker _____five people.
5. The attacker has been found and _____.
6. A man named Matt de Grood is the _____ in this case.
7. The suspect will be making an _____ in court very soon.
8. This news story is about a _____ that occurred last week.

   Now listen to the first story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The police chief in Calgary said this mass murder is the _____.	a) worst in Calgary's history. b) worst in the past 5 years.
2. The young people were _____ to death.	a) shot b) stabbed
3. The victims are all _____.	a) students b) 22 year olds
4. Matt de Grood is _____.	a) a victim. b) the accused murderer.
5. The suspect was _____.	a) arrested at the house. b) killed at the party.
6. Matt de Grood is facing _____.	a) 5 counts of first- degree murder b) a court appearance.

Discussion: What do you think causes this kind of violence? What do you think should happen to the murderer now?

News story #2 Former Cabinet Minister Defeats Long-Time MP

Canada is a democratic country and this means the people of Canada get to vote for their government. This news story is about one government representative getting replaced by another.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) former	a) conclusion outcome
	2) defeated	b) questionable not agreed on
	3) federal	c) choose vote
	4) results	d) lost did not win
	5) controversial	e) disapprove judged as bad or wrong
	6) election	f) governmental nationwide
	7) criticized	g) before, but not now earlier

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Cabinet minister: Someone who is in charge of a part of the government; e.g. minister of finance, minister of education, etc.

MP: Member of Parliament – part of the government

campaign – activities used to encourage people to vote for someone in a competition for an elected position

campaign (verb) – to be working for votes in order to win an elected position

courted – to be attracted to something

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are true or false. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____The election was very close
2. ____Ron Liepert used to be a cabinet minister.
3. ____Rob Anders is a cabinet minister.
4. ____Conservative members were unhappy with Rob Anders.
5. ____One reason Anders was controversial was because he's been caught napping at work.
6. ____This was an unusual campaign.

Discussion Question

What are some good reasons for government representatives to lose their jobs? Whose job is it to make sure the government is behaving in a good or appropriate way?

News story #3 World Traveller

Do you like to travel around and see new places? What is the longest trip you have ever taken? Where did you go? How long were you gone? This news story is about a man who travelled around the world for many years.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	lifetime	to go from place to place
	backpacking	things you own
	possessions	something you have decided to do
	backpack	to stop moving from place to place
	plans (v)	over the course of someone's life
	plans (n)	to think about what you want to do and then deciding to do it
	settle down	a bag, carried on your back, to keep your personal items in.
	visit	to go from one place to another for fun usually with very little money and a backpack.
	travelling	to go and spend time somewhere or with someone, likely for fun.

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:
Calgarian: A person who lives in or is from the city of Calgary.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Who went backpacking?
2. What did he spend his lifetime doing?
3. Where did he store all of his possessions?
4. How long did he spend travelling?
5. Can he still go visit more countries?
6. Why won't he settle down?

Discussion Questions:
What are the benefits of travelling around the world the way Mike Bown has? Are there things that he has missed out on because of his lifestyle? Does this type of travelling sound like fun to you?

Language Focus

***'Will'* has many meanings including:**

1. To show habitual occurrences: e.g. Jill **will** talk on the phone for hours. (Showing that this is what she does a lot.)
2. To show willingness to do something: e.g. I **will** get the groceries, if you'd like. (This is an offer, but does not necessarily mean it will certainly happen.)
3. To express certainty: e.g. I **will** drive you to school tonight. (This is something that will for sure happen later tonight.)

The form the modal 'Will' takes is "will + infinitive"
e.g. Will talk; Will get; Will drive

Practice
First, look at the examples from two of the news stories and underline the form. Second, decide which meanings these two examples take on.
1) Story 1 - He will make a court appearance next week.

   Meaning:

2) Story 2 - Liepert will be the Conservative candidate in Calgary Signal Hill for the next federal election
   Meaning:

Here are a few more "will" statements. Try to identify the form by <u>underlining it</u> and the meanings for these examples too.

3) Luke will go the gym 4 days a week.
   Meaning:

4) Penny will play with her sister every day.
   Meaning:

5) I will carry your suitcase for you, if you'd like.
   Meaning:

6) I will eat that later.
   Meaning:

Now Use It! Try to write your own sentences about yourself using all three meanings. Think about what you're trying to say when using "will".

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	APRIL 18 - WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of April 18th.	0:00
Story 1	Calgary's police chief says it the worst mass murder in Calgary's history. Five young people were stabbed to death at a house party in the northwest neighbourhood of Brentwood. The victims are all students, ranging in ages from 22 to 27 years old. The crime has shocked the entire city. Police arrested a 22 year old at the house. He is also a student and was invited to the party. The suspect is also the son of a senior police officer. Matt de Grood is facing 5 counts of first-degree murder. He will make a court appearance next week.	0:10
Story 2	The results were very tight. In the end, former Alberta cabinet minister Ron Liepert managed to defeat long-time MP Rob Anders. Liepert campaigned on the idea of change saying he was reaching out to conservative members who were unhappy with Rob Anders; Anders, of course, an MP for 17 years who often courted controversy. Earlier, it looked as though Anders may be in trouble. Turn out for the vote was heavy. He's been criticized for everything from napping in the House...to calling Nelson Mandela a terrorist. This campaign was no different.	1:01
Story 3	A lot of people talk about taking a trip of a lifetime. But a Calgary man has spent his lifetime travelling. Bown has been backpacking around the world for 23 years. His only possessions in a backpack. He's visited 195 countries. And now the Calgarian is finally home. He says he now plans to write a book about his travels. But also says he has no plans to settle down.	1:50

Answer keys

News story #1 - Vocabulary

1. Everyone was <u>shocked</u> to hear about the mass murder in Calgary.
2. The <u>entire</u> group of people who were at the party in Calgary is very upset about what happened there.
3. Unfortunately, there were <u>victims,</u> who got killed at the party.
4. The attacker <u>stabbed</u> five people.
5. The attacker has been found and <u>arrested.</u>
6. A man named Matt de Grood is the <u>suspect</u> in this case.
7. The suspect will be making an <u>appearance</u> in court very soon.
8. This news story is about a <u>mass murder</u> that occurred last week.

Listening

1. The police chief in Calgary said this mass murder is the _____.	**a) worst in Calgary's history.**
2. The young people were _____ to death.	**b) stabbed**
3. The victims are all _____.	**a) students**
4. Matt de Grood is _____.	**b) the accused murderer**
5. The suspect was _____.	**a) arrested at the house**
6. Matt de Grood is facing _____.	**a) 5 counts of first- degree murder**

News story #2 - Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
g	1) former	a) conclusion outcome
d	2) defeated	b) questionable not agreed on
f	3) federal	c) choosing voting
a	4) results	d) lost did not win
b	5) controversial	e) disapprove judged as bad or wrong
c	6) election	f) governmental nationwide
e	7) criticized	g) before, but not now earlier

Listening

1. __F__ The election was very close.
2. __T__ Ron Liepert used to be a cabinet minister.
3. __F__ Rob Anders is a cabinet minister.
4. __T__ Conservative members were unhappy with Rob Anders.
5. __T__ One reason Anders was controversial was because he's been caught napping at work.
6. __F__ This was an unusual campaign.

News story 3 - Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
e	10. lifetime	j) To go from place to place
h	11. backpacking	k) Things you own
b	12. possessions	l) Something you have decided to do
g	13. backpack	m) To stop moving from place to place
f	14. plans (v)	n) Over the course of someone's life
c	15. plans (n)	o) To think about what you want to do and then deciding to do it
d	16. settle down	p) A bag, carried on your back, to keep your personal items in.
i	17. visit	q) To go from one place to another for fun usually with very little money and a backpack.
a	18. travelling	r) To go and spend time somewhere or with someone, likely for fun.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*
1. Who went backpacking? Calgary man Mike Spencer
2. What did he spend his lifetime doing? Travelling
3. Where did he store all of his possessions? In his backpack
4. How long did he spend travelling? 23 years.
5. Can he still go visit more countries? Yes, and he plans to.
6. Why won't he settle down? Because he wants to travel more.

Will + bare infinitive

1) Story 1 - He will make a court appearance next week.
   Meaning: To express certainty

2) Story 2 - Liepert will be the Conservative candidate in Calgary Signal Hill for the next federal election

Meaning: To express certainty

3) Luke <u>will go</u> the gym 4 days a week.
   Meaning: habitual occurrence

4) Penny <u>will play</u> with her sister every day.
   Meaning: habitual occurrence

5) I <u>will carry</u> your suitcase for you, if you'd like.
   Meaning: willingness to do something

6) I <u>will eat</u> that later.
   Meaning: To express certainty